



Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona
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PRESS RELEASE

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LA CIMA TEACHER INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY ON FIREARMS AND MAIL FRAUD CHARGES

TUCSON, ARIZONA – U.S. Attorney José de Jesus Rivera announces that a federal grand jury in Tucson, Arizona, has returned an indictment charging **KATHLEEN ANNETTE MORRIS** with seven counts of Mail Fraud; one count of Possession of a Firearm in a School Zone; one count of Discharge of a Firearm in a School Zone.

“The real damage is the unnecessary pain inflicted on the students, teachers, parents, administrators, and the reputation of the school, said U.S. Attorney José de Jesus Rivera. This school has taken great steps to ensure a safe, learning environment for the children in the community and this act quickly wiped away those efforts.”

Kathleen Morris was charged in connection with the April 10, 2000, shooting at La Cima Middle School. The indictment alleges that the defendant intended to defraud the Arizona Retirement System by claiming disability after self-inflicting a gunshot wound and then claiming that the school failed to provide adequate security. It is also alleged that to further this fraudulent scheme, the defendant sent threatening letters through the United States Postal Service, addressed to herself at the La Cima Middle School. The letters were sent on March 20, March 28, and April 7, 2000.

The defendant is also charged with bringing and discharging a Smith and Wesson .38 caliber revolver to La Cima Middle School which she had reason to believe was a school zone.

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The maximum penalty for Mail Fraud is five years. The maximum penalty for Possession of a Firearm in a School Zone is five years. The maximum penalty for Discharge of a Firearm in a School Zone is five years.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and an individual's guilt is established only upon conviction. The investigation in this case was conducted by the Pima County Sheriff's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Postal Inspection Service. The prosecution is being handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

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